

Preliminary Amendment filed by way of facsimile transmission (with Certificate of Transmission) on October 31, 2003. This Preliminary Amendment also included additional new claims, which *were* included in the publication of the application (US 2005/0046120 A1), on March 3, 2005, but the specification amendments mentioned above *were not* included in the 2005 publication, even though the Preliminary Amendment was filed back on October 31, 2003. These new additional claims (as well as other new claims added in later Amendments) were examined and allowed by the Examiner (see Notice of Allowance dated May 11, 2005).

In fact, this Preliminary Amendment was also pointed out to the Examiner in a later Amendment filed, December 8, 2004. In such Amendment filed December 8, 2004, at page 19, the undersigned attorney stated the following:

“In his Office Action, Examiner Peavey rejected claims 1 through 66, as noted below. The Applicants courteously point out that a Preliminary Amendment that added claims 67 and 68 was filed (via Certificate of Mailing) on October 31, 2003, but was apparently inadvertently overlooked or perhaps was not available to the Examiner in the USPTO file due to the recent location of the USPTO to its new facilities in Alexandria, Virginia. The Examiner is courteously requested to reconsider his rejection of claims 1 through 66, and to consider now-pending claims 67 through 73, at his earliest convenience.”

The above-mentioned claims 1 through 73 were subsequently examined and allowed by the Examiner.

Copies of the above-mentioned Preliminary Amendment of October 31, 2003 (with facsimile transmission report) and the above-mentioned Amendment of December 8, 2004 (with return post card) are courteously enclosed for convenience.

Therefore, since this situation apparently resulted from a mix-up, temporarily misplaced document, or a delay most likely occurring during the USPTO's recent move to

its Alexandria offices, the undersigned courteously requests that the Notice Of Drawing Inconsistency With Specification be withdrawn and that the application be passed to issuance as soon as is practicable.

If any questions arise, or if further discussion is needed, please telephone the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: SEP. 29, 2005

FREUDENBERG-NOK GENERAL PARTNERSHIP
Legal Department
47690 East Anchor Court
Plymouth, MI 48170-2455
Direct Line: (734) 354-5445
Facsimile: (734) 451-1445

By: Ronald W. Wangerow
Ronald W. Wangerow
Reg. No. 29,597